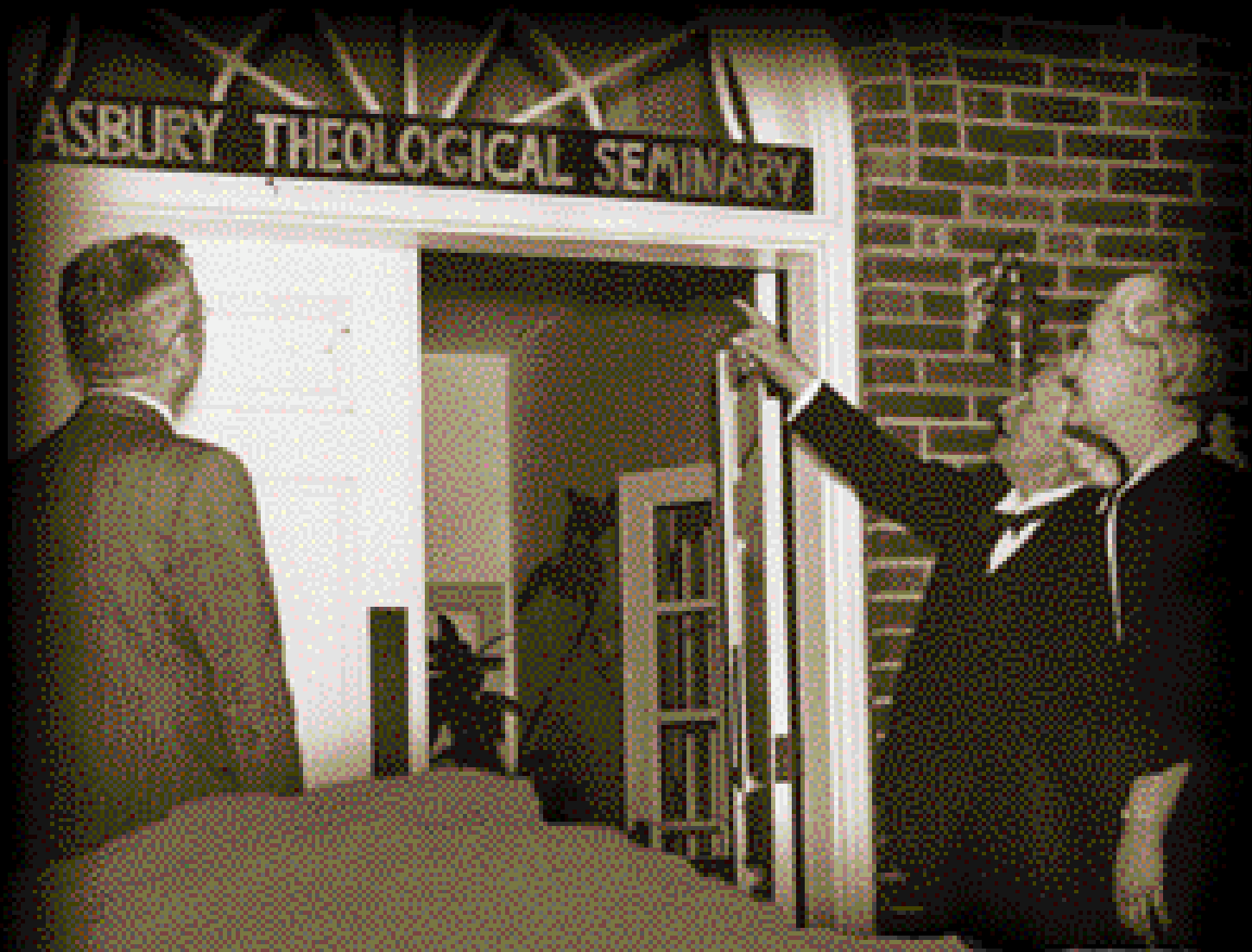


THE ASBURY HERALD)))

VOLUME 114 NUMBER 2 FALL 2004



*Building
Our L.P.
Foundation*

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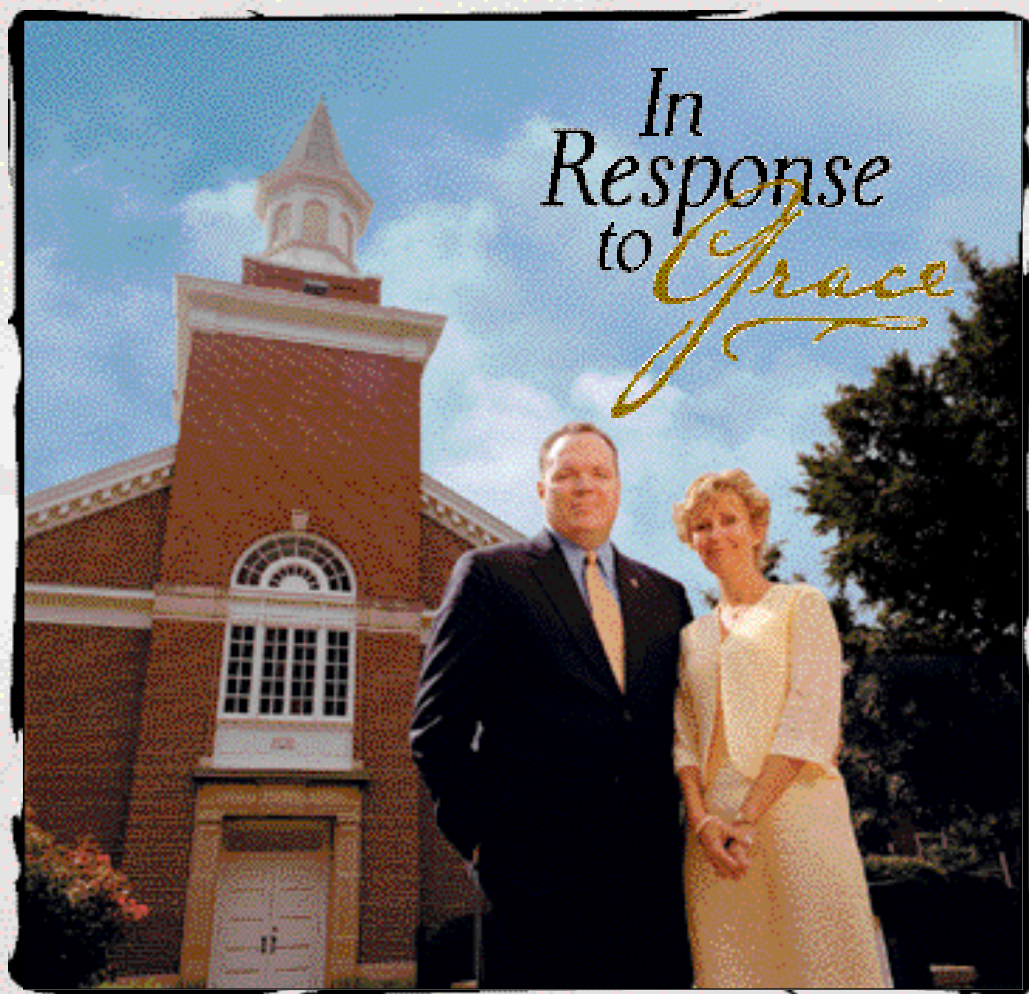
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THE ASBURY HERALD is published by Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390-1199. This issue is dated Fall 2004, Vol. 114, No. 2. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE ASBURY HERALD, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390-1199. Asbury Theological Seminary is a religious not-for-profit educational institution which has long enjoyed the benefit of estate stewardship of many friends. If you are considering a bequest, please use our full legal name and address: Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390-1199. Call the vice president of Seminary advancement at 1-800-2ASBURY for specific information. Find *The Asbury Herald* and other Asbury Seminary resources on the world wide web: www.asburyseminary.edu or e-mail us at "communications_office@asburyseminary.edu".



The hallway inside the front door says it all. Standing tall in the entryway stands a stained glass window from one of their church appointments.

"Is that a replica of one of the windows inside the church?"

"No," describes Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway, president of Asbury Seminary. "It is a window from the church. They took it down so that we would always have a piece of them with us."

Next to it hangs an old attendance record from Dr. Greenway's father's home church. Mrs. Greenway jokes that she's going to start using it to take family attendance.

These treasured pieces are more than just beautiful objects. They tell of the Greenway's commitment to family and ministry.

For Jeff and Beth, as they like to be called, family comes first.

"There might be times when my son's game or daughter's activity comes first," explains Asbury's newly elected sixth president. "I may have to come back to work later, but my kids will know that they came first."

Asbury Seminary hasn't had a "first family" in years. Along with Beth and Jeff, their three children made the journey from Western Pennsylvania to Central Kentucky. Nathan, 20 and a student at Lexington Community College; Joseph, 18 and a senior at West Jessamine High School; and Paige, 16 and a sophomore at West Jessamine, are making the adjustment to becoming Kentuckians.

But at first the prospect of moving to Kentucky didn't bide well with the kids.

Joseph was the hard sell. After all it was going to be his senior year in high school. The idea of uprooting and leaving friends would be difficult for any teenager, and Joe was no exception.

"He was not happy about the situation," Jeff tells. "Beth and I encouraged him to pray about it. We even agreed that if necessary, he could remain in Pittsburgh and finish out the school year. But I don't know how we could have left our son there."

It was on the way to the interview at Asbury when the change of heart happened. Earlier in the day, Joe was understandably short on the phone with his father. A few hours later he called back.

"He called while we were in the car," Jeff recalls. "He said, 'Dad, I know I've been difficult. But I'm calling to say that I've been praying. I hope you really do well in the interview.'"

For Jeff and Beth this was the first step. Two weeks later while on vacation, the subject of Joe staying in Pittsburgh came up again. At that point Beth spoke up.

"I'm not ready. I don't want him to stay in Pittsburgh," recalls Beth. "I told him I wasn't ready for him to not be in our house." To which Joe responded, "I'm not ready either."

The final confirmation came this past August when the family first came to Wilmore after the announcement came of Jeff being selected president. During chapel that week, Joe leaned over to his mother and whispered in her ear, "Mom, don't tell Dad, but this has exceeded all my expectations."

This was it for Jeff and Beth. Final confirmation of their call to come to Asbury Seminary.

Jeff has said more than once that coming to Asbury as president is not a culmination of a career goal, but in response to the grace of Christ. After all, he was trained to be a pastor. He had pastored churches in Pennsylvania and was a district superintendent in the United Methodist Church. And he had been nominated to be a bishop in 2000, and that was likely to have happened again last spring.

"I've understood for a long time that my ministry would always be to the local church," Jeff explains. "Now, in my role as president, I have the opportunity to help shape future spiritual leaders for the kingdom. What better

pastor you could be where would you go for seminary?"

His dad responded first with Asbury, then followed by Gordon Conwell and Fuller. Fuller was out of the question for Jeff and Beth. It would take them too far away from friends and family. Gordon-Conwell was an option and they headed there for their honeymoon. Almost immediately they knew this was not the place for them.

At that point in time they were both uneasy about their new calling. Jeff was about to graduate from college and had been offered lucrative jobs in the business world and they just couldn't settle on what to do.

Finally Beth remembers saying to Jeff, "You're not going to be content until you go visit Asbury." Using the last \$100 from wedding gifts, they headed to Wilmore.

The spirit of hospitality overwhelmed them both. That first night, as they settled in, Beth knew Asbury was it. "You know, Jeff," she quips, "we're really going to love it here." The following summer they moved to Wilmore.

Nearly 20 years later, they've returned with an even more defined sense of calling. "God made it clear to me," Jeff tells. "This is the place where my life could make the most difference in the kingdom."

Three months into Jeff's presidency, they're beginning to feel settled. The kids have begun school, the boxes have been unpacked and the day-to-day life of being president

*"THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE MY LIFE COULD MAKE THE
MOST DIFFERENCE IN THE KINGDOM."*

way to minister to the local church?"

For Jeff the life of a seminary president embodies thinking, preaching, acting and, most importantly, living. The signature at the bottom of his emails puts it plainly:

Thinking theologically...Preaching evangelically...Acting prophetically...Living in response to grace...

It's these traits that led Jeff to answer the call of president. Leaving his position as a district superintendent in the United Methodist Church wasn't going to be easy. But he knew his call. And he has responded. With a pastor's heart and an administrator's mind, Jeff continues Asbury's 83-year tradition of training Christian leaders for service worldwide.

Having been a part of the larger Asbury community as first a student, then alumnus, then board member, Jeff is well acquainted with the Seminary's mission. "Our primary mission as an institution will not change," he emphatically explains. "We are to 'prepare and send forth a well-trained, sanctified spirit-filled evangelistic ministry to spread scriptural holiness' across the globe. We are first and foremost an academic institution."

Asbury Seminary was first brought to Jeff's attention by his father. Although his dad isn't an Asbury alumnus, he knew the value of an Asbury degree—he had been around numerous Asbury grads as a pastor himself in the United Methodist Church.

"I asked my father, 'Dad, if you were going to be the best

and first lady has started.

For Beth, her role at Asbury is altogether new. She and Jeff joke that she does "her preaching at home." Her family is her priority and raising her children to be godly individuals is her goal. "Beth keeps me grounded," Jeff describes. And Beth is quick to say that she's comfortable being in the background. But she's also excited about the possibilities of working with spouse ministries and sharing with student spouses her life experiences.

Jeff and Beth want to not only model a healthy marriage and family, they want to be servant-leaders. They've already begun hosting staff members at their home, Rose Hill, for brunch. Thirty staff from various areas across the campus come together for a meal—served by Jeff and Beth. Jeff is insistent that there's no agenda for these meals. Just simply a time for staff to meet them and for Jeff and Beth to get to know the community. "It's all about relationship building," explains Jeff.

And the relationship building goes beyond the staff. Jeff is out to build relationships with faculty, staff, students and board of trustees. "We're insulated in our own little groups," Jeff observes. "I want us to transcend our groups and build relationships with one another." Already he's begun modeling this—his first day on the job he brought donuts around to every Seminary office.

It's more than fitting that for the inauguration week activities the theme "In Response to Grace" was chosen.

Grace is what motivates Jeff's servant-leader approach and it was grace that brought him to Asbury. That doesn't mean that responding to grace is always the easiest choice to make. But for Jeff it is certainly the best. "I am humbled and honored to be entrusted as the custodian of the Seminary's mission. The foundation set in place by Henry Clay Morrison, J.C. McPheeters, Frank Bateman Stanger, David McKenna and Maxie Dunnam is firm, and it is my honor to build upon that foundation."

With that strong foundation in place, Jeff and Beth begin their tenure at Asbury Seminary, fully recognizing that this is the place God has called them. With that in mind, on November 11, 2004, Asbury Seminary will proudly install this man who is simply choosing to live by grace.

...a Lesson in Faith

Grace and peace to you through Jesus, who said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

I don't know about you, but I sometimes need help to make me step out in faith. The following story was given to me by a friend at an important time of needing to step out in faith. It was told to me while I was considering the invitation to enter the interview process for selection as the sixth President of Asbury Theological Seminary. Perhaps it will help you.

An eight-year-old boy was being raised by his parents on the family farm. Like all farming families, each member of the household had chores to perform to contribute to the family life. He was no different. Each morning and afternoon, he had chores to perform as a part of his family. He would normally do them before and after school.

In October, after the clocks had been turned back, he came home one afternoon to find that it had already turned dark when it was time to do his chores. His dad prompted him that it was time to get to them, and the boy stepped out on the front porch to make his way to the barn. While standing on the porch, he became scared. The night was dark, and he could not see where the barn was.

He went back inside the house and told his dad how he felt. His dad was wise, and said, "You are becoming a big boy now. We can trust you to carry a lantern to the barn and do your chores." He lit the lantern, and sent his son out onto the porch carrying the light into the darkness.

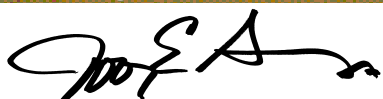
He stood on the porch...holding the lantern up...but was unable to see more than a few feet in front of his face. He was definitely not able to see the barn across the yard. He was still scared.

He went back inside and told his dad how he felt. His dad was wise and said, "Son, do you trust me?" The boy said, "Yes." The dad said, "Do you believe me when I tell you that the barn is still out there across the yard?" The boy said, "Yes." The dad said, "Then I want you to go back outside and take a step off the porch toward the direction of the barn. Take one step at a time and work toward the edge of your light, and I promise you the barn is still there."

Hmmm...work toward the edge of your light. That holds a powerful lesson for us. God calls us to take life and faith one step at a time. God rarely tells us the whole plan before we take a step in faith. We would like that, but the journey of faith is most often lived taking one step at a time working toward the edge of our light trusting that God's purpose and destination will be our end.

I encourage you...work toward the edge of your light...and God will be faithful.

Blessings!



Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway
President

Work
to the
Edge
of your
Light..

Florida Turns Five

In a very old but only recently famous passage from 2 Chronicles, obscure Old Testament prayer warrior Jabez beckons for God to bless him and "expand his territory," in order that he might do even more good works in his holy name.

Several years ago, a very established but steadily exploding entity called Asbury Theological Seminary sought God's direction on expanding its reach to the nation and world. Eventually, a relatively small building located near a cross-section of toll roads in Central Florida emerged from the praxis of prayer and discernment.

In the fall of 1999, Asbury Seminary expanded its physical territory by launching the Florida Campus. That first fall semester, 65 students enrolled, nurtured by five professors assigned to the campus, including Vice President, Dr. Steve Harper.

Five years later, Dr. Harper reflects on what has taken place in Florida and remarks, "God has confirmed to us in many ways both the correctness and the timeliness of establishing this campus. I think it's the right thing to have done, and we're seeing that it was a good time to do it."

The Florida Campus enrolled nearly 400 students this fall, an attendance that makes it larger than 75 percent of every other full-service theological seminary in the United States and Canada. A complete M.Div. and M.A. in Christian ministries are offered, with full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Association of Theological Schools, and the United Methodist Senate.

Eleven full and part-time faculty, supplemented by a number of adjunct professors, serve the student body. A generous \$1.2 million donation is allowing the campus to finally expand to its second floor. Numerous synergistic partnerships are in place or in motion, and a thriving Hispanic ministry program has flourished far beyond expectations. Tight, heartfelt community is the dynamic that weaves together each of these developments, and it leaves one to marvel what God has in store for the next five years.

When asked about the highlights of the campus' first five years, Dr. Harper replies, "If you talk to most students they



will tell you three things: The experience of community, worship in chapel, and the attentiveness of the professors to them as students."

Dr. Harper says several happy surprises have developed at Asbury Seminary Florida since its inception. In particular, these include the campus' vital connection with the Hispanic church; the marked percentage of female students; the growing number of African-American students; a partnership with the Central Florida Diocese of the Episcopal Church; and increasing relationships with parachurch organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, Pioneers, New Tribes Missions, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Concerning the Hispanic connection, Dr. Harper says what made it thrive was an invitation from the Hispanic church to become involved in the training of clergy and lay leaders, "which was a need they had identified before we (Asbury) even came to town. We were here at the right time and place. We're indirectly connected to nearly 1,200 churches in the state of Florida through the Hispanic Pastors Association, which has gotten the attention of the Governor and the federal faith-based initiative program."

Through this relationship, the campus' thriving Latino-Latina Studies Program (LLSP) emerged. This is a multi-track, non-degree program designed to train Hispanic clergy and laity for leadership positions in congregations. Joanne Solis-Walker, part of the first class that arrived in 1999, has directed the program since it began, and most of the students it benefits

are from outside of Florida. About 293 students at one point or another have been a part of LLSP, and about 125 are expected to participate this fall.

"It's amazing, the things that have happened here," says Joanne. "It's left us all in awe."

This fall, the program is opening an extension campus at a church in West Palm Beach, Fla., hoping to serve about 30 students—although more than 30 have already requested to participate. Two classes will be offered at the new location. Another addition this fall to the program is English as a Second Language instruction.

Joanne hopes the program can continue to serve as a bridge to enable Hispanic ministry workers to eventually complete undergraduate and graduate education. "Our philosophy with the students has been, 'Tell us where you are and what you're educational goal is.'"

Joanne says it has been exciting to see Methodists, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and so forth learn together in the same classrooms and re-shape how they view ministry—and how they view each other.

"When we think Hispanic or Latino, we think of a happy family getting along together," she says. "But there's so many different subcultures within the Hispanic culture that another beauty of the program is having the Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Panamanians...we have nearly 14 different cultures. We're not only joining together as far as our culture system, we're discussing theological

education in a way that it has never been discussed from the pulpits of our churches."

Another growth area for the Florida campus is the rise of female students who will comprise between 46 to 48 percent of the student body this fall.

"The only thing I can attribute it to is that in our main 'feeder denominations,' quite a few women are feeling called to some kind of professional ministry," Dr. Harper says. "Not all of them are going to become local pastors. They know our campus is friendly and supportive, and the word has gotten out about that."

In addition, Dr. Harper says the campus has become known as a place where African-American students are welcome. Several students from the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) have started attending, and their denomination represents the second largest on campus after United Methodists.

Episcopal students are the third largest segment, due in part to a relationship with the local diocese that has involved a broad-based approach to priestly formation for that denomination. In addition to regular M.Div. studies, Episcopalians receive the benefit of an adjunct mentor and professor, Bill Haugaard, a retired Episcopal priest who also leads morning prayer services on campus. The students cannot complete their entire program at Asbury Seminary Florida, although two have graduated from there with their bishop's permission.

"Our commitment to a Wesleyan/Anglican approach to theology and formation is surely part of this," says Dr. Harper.

The campus' parachurch relationships have involved internships, employment opportunities, and the exploration of mission opportunities. Orlando is one of the largest parachurch-focused cities, along with Dallas, Wheaton, Ill., and Colorado Springs, Colo. Dr. Harper says the growth of Asbury Seminary Florida allows it to "look outside our walls and tie together some of these threads."

"We've been in town long enough now for people to know that we're here, and it opens doors to say, 'Now what?' For several years we were so intent on getting started and getting students, that we didn't have protracted conversations with a lot of folks. We're trying to expand the service base and the partnership we have," says Dr. Harper.

Another new partnership involves the Florida Conference's Healthy Church

Rhonda Stapleton, a summer 2004 Asbury Theological Seminary graduate, just bought a home where not many people would aspire to live.

Her purchase in Orlando's Holden Heights neighborhood serves as further proof of Rhonda's deep commitment to an uncommon ministry, grounded in a community where drug dealers and prostitutes are commonplace.

Rhonda's desire to serve in outreach ministries led her to Florida two years ago, even though she was still in the middle of her seminary education. She relocated there to work for a non-profit organization called Restore Orlando, which has an inner-city ministry.

In general, she characterizes her neighborhood as one in need of hope, which is why she is attracted to it. "I want the people that no else wants," she says.

Rhonda says her M.Div. education at Asbury has prepared her for the mission she now faces.

"I didn't have a strong Bible background and I'd been in a tradition that doesn't support women in ministry," she says. "At Asbury, I really think that I grounded, more than ever, what my foundation is for my faith, and why I believed what I believed."

She also notes that her awareness level for other cultures was heightened through Asbury. "The missions classes really stuck with me," she says.

Rhonda recently found it interesting when an acquaintance described her as "an urban missionary" because of her desire to do outreach in the inner-city setting.

Another aspect of Rhonda's ministry relates to the cross-cultural setting she finds in Holden Heights, which is about 85-90% African-American. Rhonda is white.

Florida in focus: rhonda stapleton

Yet Rhonda describes her settling into the neighborhood as extremely positive. She has left her position with Restore Orlando to work with a Catholic organization called Covenant House Florida, where she serves in "street

outreach," looking for homeless children and runaways and trying to get them into a shelter.

Rhonda also found a church home in her community—Ebenezer United Methodist Church, led by Pastor Margaret Kartwe-Bradley. The church struggled in its previous Orlando location and just moved to the Holden Heights area in February 2004.

Pastor Kartwe-Bradley, the only church staff member, says she went to the area district superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Stiggins, seeking assistance in getting a staff member who wanted to do outreach in the community. As she was talking with Dr. Stiggins, Rhonda arrived at the district office to meet with him regarding her desire for outreach ministry. The two women basically passed each other in the waiting area, and Dr. Stiggins helped to connect them.

Rhonda soon joined the church and was welcomed into its all-black membership with open arms; they applauded her when she announced her desire to join. Since then, she and Pastor Kartwe-Bradley, along with Dr. Stiggins, have worked toward creating a paid outreach ministry position for her at the church. They are seeking the financial help of some of their local sister churches to support the position.

Pastor Kartwe-Bradley expresses nothing but admiration for Rhonda's service and for her abilities.

"When I think about Rhonda it just affirms God's calling for us in this community," Pastor Kartwe-Bradley says. "Rhonda is just an answer to my prayers, and together we are going to do things that haven't been done before."

Rhonda eventually hopes to become a deacon affiliated with Ebenezer U.M.C.

"I envision myself... bringing together reconciliation in the community I'm in," Rhonda says. "To raise up indigenous leadership, you really have to invest a good bit of time."

Academy, a three year learning track for new church planters and congregational revitalization. The academy launches in January 2005.

Another key aspect of the Florida campus has been the strength of its Supervised Ministries program, led by Asbury Seminary grad Dr. Daryl L. Smith, associate professor of S.Min. and Christian leadership. Dr. Smith arrived in Orlando in 2000, and this year assumes S.Min. duties for the Wilmore campus as well.

"The reason I came here was because of the dream of being an urban, cross-cultural, multidimensional, cutting-edge institution," says Dr. Smith, who pastored in western New York before moving to Florida. "It was hard to leave pastoral ministry. We said, 'We're on a mission, let's see where it goes.'"

Dr. Smith said he explored different models of doing supervised ministry upon his arrival, hoping to contextualize the experience for a campus of students whose average age is in the early 40s and bring a lot of life and ministry experience

to the table. While nearly 20 percent of Wilmore students are student pastors, the number is 100 percent in Orlando. He says, "We're finding where they are in their ministry, and saying 'How can you grow and be more effective, and how can you take all the things you're learning a bout yourself and put it all together?'"

Orlando supervised ministry students are required to spend their second semester of supervised ministry outside of the parish in a cross-cultural setting that sends them across barriers of age, race, ethnic groups, etc. Dr. Smith's larger vision is for students to take more than the currently required two semesters of supervised ministry work, and to fully equip students to grow deeper in how they view ministry. He has implemented practical hands-on education such as weddings, funerals, budgeting for family and the church, etc., all tied into the supervised ministry reflection groups.

With the increase in students to the Florida campus, plans include adding another preaching professor in July 2005,

and to begin exploring the addition of further M.A. programs. While there are no plans for a Ph.D. program, a Doctor of Ministry track is likely and, Dr. Harper says, conversations are underway.

Dr. Harper uses the analogy of NASA launching the space shuttle to describe the campus' development. The first phase is getting into the air; the second is to orbit and stabilize; and the final is to accomplish the mission. Looking to the future of the campus and the furthering of Asbury Seminary Florida's mission, Dr. Harper says the yearlong expansion of the physical facilities—which will nearly double the campus' cramped office and classroom space—and emerging partnerships are the most exciting developments.

Dr. Harper says both he and his wife, Jeannie—who has been active in the campus' spouse ministries program—feel the seminary's invitation six years ago to be a part of the Florida vision is God's call upon their lives. "We look forward to seeing how that further unfolds under Jeff Greenway's guidance."

Brenda Cotto, a Latino/Latina Studies Program (LLSP) student at Asbury Theological Seminary's Florida campus, proudly cradles members of the deaf community in her hands.

Brenda, 34, who grew up in a home where both English and Spanish were spoken, believes she is called by God to speak with her hands in a third language—signing.

"When I was 22, I received my calling to the deaf world," she says. "I asked God what needed to be done and He said I just needed to be their voice—that they would hear through my ears and speak through my voice."

At the time of her calling, Brenda says she realized that her physical actions during corporate worship at her Spanish-speaking church were unique. She eventually became convinced about

ministering to the non-hearing world. Suddenly, deaf people began to cross her path everywhere she went. As she started to get to know them, she became fluent in American Sign Language.

Her involvement now

includes working full time for American Sign Language Services in Kissimmee, Fla., as an interpreter, and co-pastoring Master's Hand World Life Ministry, an Orlando-area church launched specifically for deaf parishioners. The Master's Hand is exceptional because it is the only church for the deaf Hispanic community in Central Florida.

Brenda's work as an interpreter takes her all over Central Florida, where she assists the deaf in ways that include tutoring school children and helping deaf parents of hearing children.

Her service to the church requires her to use her abilities as a trilingual speaker. Brenda serves with co-pastors Efraim and

Maggie Alicea, who are both profoundly deaf. Her main role is to learn spiritual truths and communicate them appropriately, while the Aliceas help her understand the deaf community.

Brenda relies on the LLSP to guide her education.

"I have to read the books and take out what it is we are learning (at Asbury) and I have to break it down and show them (the deaf community)," Brenda describes. "It is like little bulbs go on in their heads"

Brenda carefully distinguishes her work as an interpreter-minister from the sign language interpreters many mainstream churches offer during worship. She says that the difference is that her focus is to deliver the gospel message at the pace of the deaf and in their context.

Brenda and her fellow ministers tailor the worship style at Master's Hand so that it is deaf-centered. The Prince of Peace church in Orlando, pastored by Pablo Lopez, opened up some space for the launch of Master's Hand. The room they use includes special lighting in case of emergencies such as fire. Also, the worshippers enjoy music from drums because the deaf feel their vibrations.

Pastor Lopez expresses delight in the spiritual growth of the Master's Hand church.

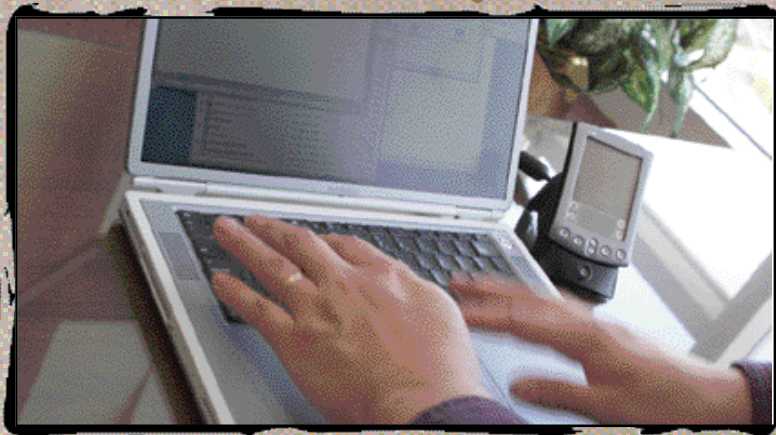
"The other pastors are overwhelmed with how much Brenda has blessed their lives," Pastor Lopez says. "She is there for so many people—at the hospitals when they're sick; with them for births, and helping them when their kids have problems at school. She's very important in their lives."

Brenda's future includes more work with the deaf.

"God has put it on my heart to reach the Spanish world to educate them about the value of the deaf," Brenda says. She plans to continue her education at Asbury to further her goals, and eventually hopes to finish with a degree or certification.

Florida in focus: brenda cotto

Knowing NO BOUNDARIES



The Asbury Seminary community finds that education not only is effective in the classroom but also at home and abroad as well. Through the use of the Internet, students have the chance to get a quality education without having to relocate to the Wilmore or Orlando campuses.

"People who would normally not have the opportunity for whatever reason can now take classes," Cathy Kimmel, the ExL admissions counselor, says.

Many students take advantage of this opportunity because they simply cannot leave their current living and work situations. Randy Goodman is one of those students. Enrolled in the In-Ministry program, Randy can complete most of his degree requirements at home, but also come to Wilmore for brief periods of in-class instruction. Randy says he tried many excuses not to attend seminary but God confirmed his call through various people. When he received a mailing about the on-line education, the rest is history. He is able to work full-time, pastor at a small church and work toward the master of divinity degree.

"The best part of the program is that it is a great seminary education. And while obtaining the M.Div. degree being able to do it while continuing to work in my health care profession," he says.

Once he completes his degree, Randy hopes to receive ordination in the United Methodist Church and serve as an evangelical pastor. The In-Ministry program allows him to accomplish classroom requirements "with limited time actually on campus" and also allow him "to participate in an extended learning program and still have the sense of community that is so important in any education endeavor."

*THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS WITH THE USE OF
TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET.*

While Randy is doing a mix of on-line and on-campus classwork, Gary Webb is another story. After graduating from Florida State, Gary felt a call to stay and work with his campus ministry as well as start seminary. The Extended Learning program (ExL) allowed him to accomplish both tasks. So for two-and-a-half years, Gary's classroom was at a computer screen.

"ExL worked really well," Gary says. He recognizes that it allowed him "to engage in full-time ministry and take a class."

One of the pleasant surprises for Gary was a sense of community despite not being in a classroom. "Every class has small groups," he describes. "You really get to know people and their relationships with God." For those people who are not on the Wilmore or Orlando campuses, ExL becomes its own unique community. People pray for each other on-line and share their ups and downs including the births of children, sickness, and the list goes on and on. Furthermore, the "ExL program does a very good job of supplementing the exposure of community that it helps to make up the difference" of not being in the classroom, Gary explains.

Another ExL student is Valkyrie Williams. Valkyrie lives in Zelienople, Pa., and works as the director of children's ministry at Harmony Zelienople United Methodist Church, while finishing two degrees after work on the Wilmore campus for four-and-a-half years. She gets to do a job she loves and finish her requirements

for the master of divinity and master of arts in Christian leadership degrees.

"I like the ExL format very much, it gives everyone in the class a voice instead of a few people who dominate a class discussion," Valkyrie says. Gary also emphasizes how people can clearly state their ideas.

Gary says that even the material is provided in a more comprehensible way. With technology allowing for more effective education and a sense of community, there's so limit to what can be done through the use of the virtual community.

"I can only imagine our commitments to the use of the Internet in theological education growing stronger," Dr. Joel Green, academic dean for Asbury Seminary, says. "Seminary students are increasingly making decisions about theological education on the basis of proximity. Although many students will continue to travel across the country, or around the world, to come to Florida or Kentucky, even more will chose to do their seminary work closer to home. If Asbury is to be involved in training those people, we must find ways to go to them."

And with that commitment, more can be done. "The possibilities are limitless with the use of technology and the internet. I heard someone say that the only boundaries are the ones we put on ourselves," explains Cathy. In the very few years that the Asbury Virtual Campus has been in existence, Asbury Theological Seminary has reached out into areas way beyond what we could ever have imagined."

For more information on the ExL program, contact the admissions office at exl_office@asburyseminary.edu.

LEADING *International* LEADERS

"To be a pioneer is hard but it is worthy," says Yim Ng.

Yim is one of the first members of the Beeson International Leaders Program, a curriculum where the vision was projected from John Wesley's famous quote, "The world is my parish." And with its second class of students beginning this fall, the program is looking to equip tomorrow's pastors in all parts of the globe.

"We want to train up-and-coming leaders in their countries so they can multiply themselves," Amy Jennings, administrative assistant to the program, explains.

The Beeson International Leaders Program was instituted to help church leaders become more effective. The program places an emphasis on thorough biblical preaching, visionary leadership, personal spiritual formation, and skills and tools for cutting-edge ministry. The unique aspect about this program is its focus on international leaders who cannot leave their parishes for long periods of time but have the desire to grow personally.

Dr. David Rambo, director of the program, notes the advantages. "Students are allowed to continue their work overseas. They can come and take a study break, it cost less, and they can return to their families."

Each year, students from around the globe will spend six weeks in the United States. Learning is very hands-on as participants have the opportunity to

attend the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership held at renowned teaching churches. They also get to visit various churches to learn more about ministering in other cultures.

All participants receive financial help when they are accepted into the program. The scholarship covers tuition and required books, a laptop computer which participants can keep, travel expenses from one's home country to Asbury Seminary—four round-trip tickets, one per year—lodging and food for the duration of the campus visit, and site-trip



expenses including food and lodging.

With those types of expenses, the program depends on "Macedonian Church" sponsors and donations. A church decides to sponsor an international student throughout his or her education.

Since the program's inception, more than 50 applications have come through each year. Out of those 25 have been selected. The program is quite selective. "We're looking for young emerging

impact leaders," Dr. Rambo remarks.

These leaders range from doing Christian ministry in the heart of Muslim country to providing refuge for children affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

One of those students is Joven Laroya. Joven serves at the president of Luzon Nazarene Bible College (LNBC) and as senior pastor of the College Church in the Phillipines. "This is one of the best programs the evangelical church has come up with for training experienced as well as new pastors," Joven says.

Another student is Yim who does full-time ministry focusing on discipleship training, pastoral counseling and mission ministries in China. She is entering her second year in the Beeson International Leader Doctoral Fellowship which gives her an opportunity to learn how to train lay leaders in order that they can do ministry and develop Bible training courses that fit within their culture.

And once Yim gets through the program, the church will get both a caring pastor and a strong leader. And many other churches throughout the world will get equipped pastors such as Joven and others as this program continues to train up-and-coming leaders. The word really is their parish.

If your church is interested in becoming a Macedonian Church, please contact the Beeson International Leaders program at 1-800-2ASBURY. Or email at david_rambo@asburyseminary.edu.

Wilmore in focus: peter kerr

"I've been pursuing my calling for 20 years," says Peter Kerr. "God gives us a lamp for our feet. But it's just at our feet, and often it doesn't shed light far into the future. That's where faith comes in." He laughs as he begins to share the story of his journey to seminary.

Peter remembers feeling the call to ministry at the age of 11. While in high school, he planned to attend a Bible college, seminary and then pastor a church. But there was also a nagging feeling he should enroll in the Air Force Academy. He recalls sitting in his high school physics class when the overhead speaker announced that his representative to Congress had nominated him to the Academy.

It wasn't exactly the voice of God, but Peter recognized it was an answer to prayer.

While at the Academy, he started Bible studies and was active in ministry. When faced with the decision of choosing a career, he declined pilot training and picked public affairs because it was most like pastoring, using his communications, speaking, and writing skills.

That decision led him to Washington State where he served as the deputy chief of public affairs. Even though he was only 22 at the time, he led a young adults ministry for people 18-28 years old.

Peter and his newly married wife, Rebecca, then moved to England, serving at the Royal Air Force base at Lakenheath, where he again worked with media relations and led Bible studies at a local British church. A chaplain friend at the base mentioned Asbury Seminary, and so after researching many seminaries and praying about his calling, Peter sensed God wanted him to attend Asbury...someday.

After England Peter was stationed at the University of Washington where he earned an M.A. in communications while also taking classes at Western

Seminary. He then enrolled in Asbury's online program, being impressed by its breadth and technology.

Shortly after 9/11 Peter reported to the Pentagon, where he worked for two years in media relations with national and international outlets, as well as training senior military and White House officials on how to speak to the media. He also was deployed to Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan. In the desert, Peter continued teaching Bible studies. God

blessed his efforts and allowed him to lead two people to Christ, have

one person baptized, and teach six people in a daily discipleship class. On returning to the U.S., Peter found himself directing the team that ran the media operations for the Ronald Reagan State Funeral.

"All along, my goal the last nine years has been to get to seminary," says Peter. "Throughout my many experiences, I've always asked myself, 'how can this help me in the ministry?' God used my short Air Force career to prepare me spiritually, vocationally and somewhat financially for seminary and ministry."

"Looking back and seeing where God has taken me makes me very excited to look forward to imagine where the journey will go."

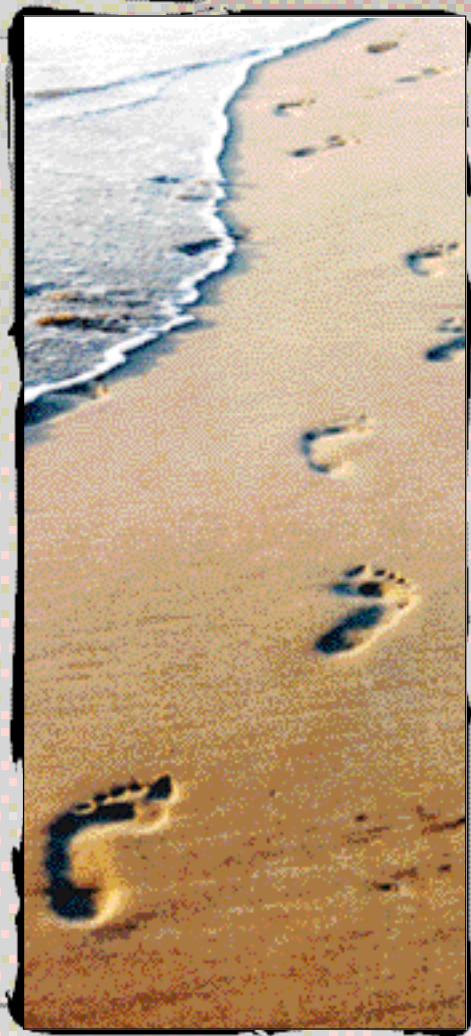
Now in Wilmore at last, Peter plans to finish coursework full-time. He is also teaching communications at Asbury College, and training local ministers on how to speak with the media. He has started using his experience and training to write a book entitled *The Way, the Truth, and the Media: How to get the Good News into the News*. "I hope it will help Christians know how to use the media instead of constantly being abused by it," Peter says.

"I've served our nation in the military, and I hope to have done that well. Now I'm finally getting the chance to serve full time in God's 'army,' and I can't wait to see where God will lead."

"LOOKING BACK AND SEEING WHERE GOD HAS TAKEN ME
MAKES ME VERY EXCITED TO LOOK FORWARD TO IMAGINE
WHERE THE JOURNEY WILL GO."

Changing Lives & Growing Friends

President's Retreat offers weekend glimpse of Asbury Seminary



At Asbury Seminary, we know transformation. It's more than just a buzzword around our campus. We frequently see it and regularly experience it for ourselves. When more than 300 new friends and prospective donors gathered for the third President's Retreat at Marco Island, Feb. 12-15, 2004, they planned to experience Asbury.

The transformation was a surprise.

"This weekend brought me so much closer to the Lord," explains Marcy Kleinpeter, of Cape Coral, Fla. "I think this is going to be a complete turn in my life. I've been so renewed in the warmth of God's people here."

The retreat invited prospective donors and friends away for a weekend of worship, teaching and community. Attendees were presented with information about Asbury, testimonies of walking with Christ, inspirational witness to the journey and concluded with an invitation to partner in the vision of Asbury. Afternoon free-time allowed guests to walk along the beach, visit with new friends or rest in their rooms.


"I felt like this weekend was a revival for me," continues Mary Jackson, a Florida campus student who shared her testimony during one of the sessions. Her husband, Irvin, adds, "I've been moved in the testimonies. It has given me so much encouragement to hear these stories and testimonies that God still moves mountains."

Special speakers throughout the weekend included Asbury students, alumni, faculty, administrators and a member of the board of trustees. Optional lunch sessions included teaching from Dr. George Hunter and Dr. Sandy Richter.

"I have been so impressed by the whole hearted devotion of the mind at Asbury," remarks Lucy Forrester of Memphis, Tenn. "It is so electric to hear Hunter, Kalas, Richter and so exciting to see these intellectuals so excited about the word of God."

Worship was lead this year by "Northland, A Church Distributed" from Longwood, Fla., a suburb of Orlando.

Mike Lewis, better known as "the Jesus painter," provided



additional worship experiences. While Northland lead worship, Mike approached the stage and painted "Christ Eyes" and later "Proof to Thomas" in less than 20 minutes. Mike has been painting at Christian events since mid-1998. The two paintings were then presented as an anonymous gift in honor of the Dunnams. They will be

Center The Cove in Ashland, N.C., raised \$1.95 million, which included a \$1.2 million restricted gift for the Dunnam campus in Orlando, Fla. The February 2004 Marco event raised nearly \$1.4 million in two-year pledges. From these gifts, Asbury received \$500,000 towards the Asbury Matching Gift Challenge, bringing the net total to

*"LOOKING BACK AND SEEING WHERE GOD HAS TAKEN ME MAKES ME VERY
EXCITED TO LOOK FORWARD TO IMAGINE WHERE THE JOURNEY WILL GO."*

displayed on the Kentucky and Florida campuses.

"So often worship is focused on seeing and hearing, but your eyes aren't engaged," explains Tammy Cessna, coordinator of major events. "It was meaningful to have this artist usher us into worship in such a unique way."

Throughout the weekend, short videos presented the mission of Asbury, covering all aspects of the Seminary including community life, the Florida campus, the school of theology, the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism, and the Beeson International Center for Biblical Preaching and Church Leadership. Saturday morning's session then invited the new friends and donors to invest and get involved in the vision and ministry of Asbury.

"God wants us to be about ministry," tells Paul Baddour, former vice president for seminary advancement and Board of Trustee member. "We desire to honor God and to be about ministry and allow God to take care of the money."

Paul's prayer for the event was for people to see giving to Asbury "as a kingdom investment with eternal rewards."

The first President's Retreat in February 2003 raised \$1.8 million dollars in two-year pledges. The following event, held October 2003 at the Billy Graham Retreat

\$1.8 million dollars. From these weekend events, the total number of major donors has tripled. And plans are underway for the next two retreats in Naples, Fla.

"It's been incredible to watch God at work and multiply the seeds which have already been planted," remarks Bill Tillman, director of operations on the Florida campus.

The spirit of the event overflowed to hotel visitors as one woman walked by the main session room, drawn to the praise worship. Tammy Cessna, began visiting with her. They both sat and watched Dr. Kalas preach on the T.V. monitor outside the room. The woman shared about having been a Christian and graduating from a Christian college, but having fallen away from the Lord. She started to ask questions about what Wesleyans believe and was overwhelmed with the message of unconditional love and grace. As she wept, she asked Tammy to lead her in a prayer to reconnect with the Lord.

"Jesus was in the house," Tammy said of the moment and the whole weekend.

The final retreat session closed with a time of testimony. At the back of the room, a woman stood, her voice cracked with emotion as she said, "Thank you so much for giving an old lady a chance to be a student at Asbury for a weekend and be totally transformed."

Loving Our Friends

In any business, when a leading institution calls you for insight, it speaks volumes. Asbury recently received a phone call from an advancement director at another seminary. The gist of his question, "What are you guys doing?"

The answer: loving our friends. The difference: intentionally building relationships.

Much of Asbury's recent success points directly to the president's retreats weekends. These recent retreats have given Asbury the opportunity to meet the friends of Asbury

face-to-face. The weekend, in turn, allows the guests to actually experience the Asbury community. In doing so, they feel more a partner in the mission and vision of the Seminary.

And more people will experience it at upcoming retreats scheduled for the end of October and next February in Naples, Fla.

"I've been on the phone a lot recently with some of Asbury's friends," explains Tammy Cessna, coordinator of major events. "I'm really looking forward to meeting them and being with them over the weekend."

As with any spiritual retreat, strangers come away close friends. Lori Rhein, interim director of alumni and church ministries, testifies, "God put together a relationship that impacted my life in such a meaningful way and it continues to."

"Every person who comes brings a difference experience—all the attendants and workers, each bring a different effect to the weekend," says Tammy Hogan, coordinator of major donors. "I'm looking forward to what the Lord has in store for these next weekends."

Even as they speak of looking forward to spending time with the guests, the team is now focused on organizing the logistical details. And God is in the details.

"The focus of the weekend," says Tammy Cessna, "is to worship the Lord through what Asbury Seminary is doing." And while there are many details to fine tune, Cessna returns to the fundamental task. "We have spent much time in prayer for the weekend, praying for each donor, for the events, for the worship. We want them to experience our unique community."

Cessna concludes one thing is for certain, "We will meet with Lord."

For more information on the upcoming retreats, contact Tammy Cessna at 1-877-FAITHFUL (324-8435).

Singing for My Lord

In mid-April, Tammy Cessna, while working for LifeChangers at Asbury Seminary, was opening mail from various donors. One letter showed appreciation for Maxie and Jerry Dunnam's 10 years of service at the Seminary.

What Tammy didn't expect was the \$1,000 in cash that came with the note. And that was not the end of it. In the past five months, this anonymous donor has been sending letters and cash. So far he has sent more than \$30,000.

The man behind the letters is an 83-year-old retired pastor living in Indiana. He and his wife have been married for nearly 60 years.

When he writes his letters to Tammy, he talks about what's going on in his life—his ups and downs—but wants it to be known that even after he has done all that he could, he is still

testimony and blessing ... [and has] demonstrated the spiritual gift of giving to me in a real and tangible way."

Now, Tammy cries every time she receives a letter. "He doesn't want recognition, it's always anonymous."

Dr. Maxie Dunnam, former Asbury Seminary president and current chancellor, was even overwhelmed by the donor's generosity. "For him to do something like this in honor of me provides overwhelming joy."

This anonymous donor's story is an interesting one. A story of a young man who just happened to be at a church event when the Holy Spirit carried him to the altar. He said that after His encounter with the Spirit, he wanted to immediately go and preach about Jesus. He later preached at a revival at his home church and amazingly, his own

"LET ME LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE A SWEET SMELLING AROMA TO THE LORD"

"an unprofitable servant" and any positive influences that come from his life, he hopes give glory to God.

This former pastor emphasizes that during his 34 years as a minister in the Methodist Church, his time was "enriched by the ministry of student pastors." He recalls how his life was touched by the "kind and friendly leadership" of Asbury Seminary. He states: "As a young Christian, I will always be thankful for the leadership and inspiration I received from students from Asbury." And with those kind words, a gift of \$1,000 accompanied the letter.

In another letter, he speaks of giving warming his heart: "There is a very special blessing knowing that our Lord will be lifted up and Christian love will be spread over the world by my little gift." His "little gift" ended up being \$4,000 in \$100 bills.

Those who read the letters are touched, especially Tammy. She notes in a letter to the donor that his "sacrificial giving has been a

father and brother were saved. He then studied the conference course of study and became an ordained elder in the Methodist Church.

During one of the many correspondences between Tammy and the donor, he sent a tape of songs that meant a lot to him. On this cassette, this man talks about how he became interested in playing guitar and how a neighbor taught him a few chords. He claims that God had something in store for him as he began to play before he was even saved. During his ministry and even now, he claims: "I just wanted to sing for my Lord."

His music, his giving and his life impacts the Seminary community.

"His whole life, whole testimony is a person who has walked with God. Jesus has worked in him," Tammy explains. "Let me live long enough to be a sweet smelling aroma to the Lord" like this anonymous donor.

Forming Pastors of Renewal

We expect our pastors to be preachers.

We expect them to be teachers.

We expect them to be leaders.

We expect them to be counselors.

We expect them to maintain their families.

We expect them to be readily available.

We expect them to be administrators.

Are we expecting too much?

Today's pastor is expected to fulfill many roles," explains Senior Vice President Steve Moore. "This is one reason why the church is losing pastors at record rates. And this is why Asbury Seminary's P.S.A.L.M. (Pastoral Seasons as Life and Ministry) Initiative comes a critical time."

In one study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford Seminary which surveyed more than 4,300, 32 percent of women and 28 percent of men in ministry seriously considered leaving the ministry during that survey year.

For this reason, the faculty and administration at Asbury Seminary thought it was necessary to help deal with this potential church crisis. And so the proposals began for a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

And now the proposal is a reality. After being awarded a \$2 million grant Asbury Seminary has launched its five-component program "P.S.A.L.M." The Lilly grant is part of a national program called "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence" and is an effort of the Endowment to focus attention and energy on maintaining the high caliber of many of the country's pastoral leaders.

Begun last year, the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program has established projects to enable ministers of many Christian traditions to create environments for ongoing biblical study, theological reflection and spiritual renewal, as well as for developing sustained friendships and mutual support opportunities.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from Lilly and deeply appreciate their support," said Asbury Seminary President Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway. "This grant will enable us to enhance our efforts in training leaders currently in Seminary as well as enable us to launch some new initiatives that will serve alumni and friends around the country."

For the people at the Lilly Endowment, Inc., Asbury's program is exactly what they're looking for. "The Endowment's current religion grantmaking revolves around two major and interlocking considerations: identifying, nurturing and educating



a talented new generation of pastors and, second, recognizing and supporting the excellent pastors we have," explains Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. "Not surprisingly, we know that healthy, engaged, thoughtful, dedicated ministers go hand in hand with healthy, vibrant and effective congregations.

"WE RECOGNIZE THAT BUILDING HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS HAS NOT ONLY TO DO WITH WELL-PREPARED PASTORS, BUT WELL-EQUIPPED LAITY."

Asbury's Proposal

The rapidly growing shortage and quality of clergy are frequently cited as major factors in the current crisis about established religious institutions. Loneliness, isolation and increasing and unrealistic expectations rank high among reasons for growing attrition among clergy. Pastors frequently lament that seminaries did not adequately prepare them for ministry. For these reasons and after having been awarded the \$2 million for the Lilly Endowment, Asbury Seminary has launched the P.S.A.L.M. Initiative.

At the core of the P.S.A.L.M. Initiative are five key components: Seminars, Spiritual Friends Seminars, Spiritual Leaders Academy, Theological Reflection Weeks and Research Collaboratory.

"Our goal through the P.S.A.L.M. program is to assist students and pastors as they grow intellectually, emotionally,

Learning Beyond the classroom

The Continuing Education office provides events that adds fuel to the refiner's fire for individuals wanting the Lord to do a major work in their lives. Once they get out of the fire, they come out as unharmed, equipped pastors and lay people with wisdom that will last a lifetime.

"Continuing Education's charge is to engage pastors and lay persons in a transformational learning experiences," Wayne Burt, director of Continuing Education/Events, explains.

Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, dean of the Beeson International Center for Biblical Preaching and Church Leadership, says that the Continuing Education office has roots in the Wesleyan tradition. "I think continuing education is about as Wesleyan as you can get. The Methodist movement began with untrained clergy. John Wesley insisted that anyone who felt called to preach must be committed to learning... he tried to make lifelong learners out of every raw ministerial recruit."

Throughout the year, the continuing education department plans numerous programs including on-campus opportunities.

The office also focuses its attention at various conferences around the country such as "The Many Faces of Christian Ed" in New Orleans, La. During the summer of 2004, the office sponsored events such as "Asbury at the Lake" in Lake Junaluska, N.C., "Asbury at Ocean Grove" in Ocean Grove, N.J., and "The Leadership Summit" in Barrington, Ill.

"We either sponsor, co-sponsor, or partner with groups and organizations to expose and train pastors and lay persons to the very best ministerial events across the U.S.," Wayne continues. "These programs reach out from the Seminary campuses regionally to meet the needs of pastors and lay people that were otherwise not obtainable for the most part."

One major conference coming to the Wilmore campus is Renovaré. Along with the Office of Community Life and embraced by the P.S.A.L.M. Initiative, the event takes place Nov. 5-6. Renovaré is a conference that allows participants to take a deeper look into the life of Jesus Christ and

"THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR CAMPUS ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR GLOBE."

Church history and find ways to implement skills in order to grow deeper in their Christian walk.

The conference features Richard Foster, a well-known and sought after speaker on the subject of spiritual formation.

"Dr. Foster is probably the best known contemporary symbol of the prayer life movement. His coming to the Asbury campus is a tremendously significant event. For those persons who attend, this weekend will offer an unparalleled opportunity for spiritual formation. For Asbury Theological Seminary, the weekend will be a declaration of our heritage as a center of prayer, and our Wesleyan commitment to a life of growth in Jesus Christ," Dr. Kalas explains.

He thinks that the Continuing Education Office at Asbury Seminary has an opportunity to change the look of Christianity in the future. "We're dreaming big. I believe that no one can estimate how many earnest lay people are simply waiting for the challenge to go deeper in their Christian experience and in the knowledge of their faith. I am prejudiced to believe that no one is better equipped to help bring that potential to pass than Asbury Theological Seminary."

physically and spiritually," explains Dr. Moore. "This program will enable these individuals to hone their skills and deepen their spiritual walk."

Directly responding to the pastor's cry for more ministry preparation in seminary, Asbury's Seminarius was established. Beginning with the seminary years, students will have opportunities to engage in classroom activities, small groups, and retreats that contribute to their developing sustainable habits in classic Christian practices and to their building networks of supportive relationships. These will take place on all three Asbury Seminary campuses, helping more than 500 students receive specific training and practical experiences in the formative development of sustainable habits around classic Christian practices.

"In addition to preparing current students for the intensity of ministry, we also want to look at those who are in the midst of ministry," continues Dr. Moore. "How can we help pastors deal with burn-out and other clergy issues?"

The answer can be found in the Spiritual Friends Seminar. Through four-day, regionally based seminars, ministry leaders and their spouses, as well as single clergy, will experience a time of developing, renewing, and deepening of formative commitments made in the early stages of ministry; of strengthening the spousal relationship through growing together in these formative commitments; and, of reconnecting and expanding their networks of supportive relationships.

These seminars will occur across the country, helping nearly 500 clergy and spouses become more deeply immersed in classic Christian practices.

The Spiritual Leaders Academy is the third component to the P.S.A.L.M. Initiative. The leaders academy will help pastoral leaders become better equipped to be spiritual guides of their congregations. The Academy will also target key laypersons and aid in training them to become spiritual leaders and partners in ministry by emphasizing in-depth spiritual formation, equipping laity for ministry and ministry team leadership. The Academy will meet twice each year for three years on the Seminary's Kentucky and Florida campuses where up to 75 pastoral leaders and 75 key laity will be trained.

The final two components of the initiative include Theological Reflection Weeks and Research Collaboratory.

The Reflection Weeks extend the work undertaken in seminary of wedding theory and practice. A small groups of ministry leaders will spend five days on campus with a faculty member. They will engage in six to eight hours of group discussions around readings they identified in collaboration with one another, participate in the faculty member's classes around the intersation of theory and practice, and jointly write a paper that focuses on a ministry issue reflected upon theologically.

Finally, acknowledging that much yet needs to be understood with respect to the seasons of pastoral lives, through the auspices of a Research Collaboratory, teams of doctoral students will explore this topic through nationwide focus groups of pastoral leaders over the course of four years. Progress reports will be distributed electronically annually via a P.S.A.L.M. website. The overall project will conclude with a monograph on the seasons of pastoral life and ministry.

The administration at Asbury Seminary hopes that the P.S.A.L.M. program will fill the void in what is happening in seminary education, ultimately leading to pastoral excellence through a comprehensive, lifelong and holistic approach to ministry.

"The bottom line is that we want to help prepare pastors for lifelong ministry," responds Dr. Moore. "The P.S.A.L.M. Initiative is the perfect complement to a seminary education. It will not only prepare pastors, it will transform their ideas of ministry."

To find out more about the Pastoral Seasons As Life & Ministry program (P.S.A.L.M.) please visit the Seminary's website at www.asburyseminary.edu.

Wilmore in focus: jeana clark

Jeana Clark applied for 10 student jobs when she arrived at Asbury Seminary. When one finally worked out, she was just happy to have an income. She didn't know that this minimum wage, work-study position would clarify her calling. And like most callings, she says only now, looking back do all the pieces fit together.

Jeana began to think about vocation being ministry while studying abroad in Bulgaria. "I only understood that a vocational ministry meant I attending seminary" she says. "But the people in my life at that time were saying you don't have to go to seminary to be in ministry. But something within me longed for a theological education."

She visited Asbury, applied for the fall 2000 semester, unsure where her studies would take her. But the week before moving, she was offered a position at her undergraduate school's communications office as an assistant to the web and graphic designers. She accepted the job, but enrolled in two ExL classes, "Just in case I was supposed to go," she jokes.

She then moved to Kansas City, Kan., for a position as a web designer at a corporation. "I enjoyed what I did, but at the end of the day," she says "there was something unfulfilling about my work. I was still wondering about my call and wondering what it was that God was wanting me to do."

When she received a letter from Asbury admissions, something sparked within her.

"I felt again this call to seminary," she says. She remembers thinking to herself, "Even though I don't know what I am going to do when I get there or how it will work out, I need to go."

She made the move in February 2002 and completed her first semester. She recalls saying to herself, "I still don't know why I am here." But when one of those 10 jobs worked out, she found herself designing posters, calendars and chapel programs.

"I began to be more and more excited about the jobs I was able to work on," she says. "The more opportunities I had, the more I began to see ideas for other projects."

"Just this past June, my supervisor looked at me and said 'You are a graphic designer'," she recalls. "In that moment I understood my call. Yes, I am a graphic designer, I've always felt that, but I had never owned it."

"It was so freeing to me, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace," Jeana recalls. "I realized its okay to be in seminary and be a graphic designer and not a pastor or professor or missionary. My calling is not a shameful thing."

"I will be a better communicator of the gospel and a designer with more understanding of the world because of the classes and conversations I had while trying to figure out my calling. Not only did someone see the gifts in me, I was given the opportunity to put them into practice."

"I've learned that one does not have to sacrifice who they are to fit into a particular ministry mold." She smiles.

ASBURY SEMINARY STUDENTS NAVIGATE HURRICANES' AFTERMATH

By Jenna De Marco

Asbury Seminary student Warren Bennett owns a recreational vehicle (RV), but says living in it for an indefinite amount of time is no picnic. His RV functions as his full-time home these days, after being displaced from his parsonage by Hurricane Frances in early September. Bennett lives in Ft. Pierce, Fla., and serves as local pastor at White City United Methodist Church.

Bennett is one of many students directly impacted by the fury of Florida's 2004 hurricane season, in which the state faced direct hits from three storms – Charley, Frances, and Jeanne – within six weeks' time. Another hurricane, Ivan, hit Alabama but impacted the Florida Panhandle.

Bennett's county – St. Lucie, which is located in southeastern Central Florida – took a near direct hit from Frances and Jeanne. "Frances took the roofing off the house, so we had massive water intrusion and the ceilings came down in all the bedrooms and the closet," Bennett says.

The home's structure is still sound, so everything will be taken out and rebuilt. His church sustained damage from the storm as well, losing its flat roof over the offices, Bible study rooms and overflow room for the sanctuary, which resulted in extensive flooding.

In the immediate days following the storm, Bennett spent his days checking on and assisting members of his congregation who were in need, as well as trying to relieve the basic needs of community members who were without power, electricity and telephones.

Despite the trauma his home, church and community suffered, Bennett maintains a determined attitude towards the cleanup and recovery efforts. "Having the group functions is very important, and to begin to restore the connections is very important," Bennett says. "Isolation is immediate after the storm and can be devastating."

Bennett's church members decided to proceed with their annual pumpkin patch in October as a sign to the community that they will recover.

The storms' impact on Bennett's routine has not deterred his goal of graduating with an M.Div. in May 2005. He started at the Orlando campus when it opened in the Fall of 1999. "I am determined to finish my hours, and whatever I have to do, I will do," he says.

Several other Asbury students weren't as fortunate as Bennett in continuing their studies this semester. According to Dr. Steve Harper, vice president of the Florida campus, about 30 students dropped their fall classes as a direct result of damage their homes sustained in the storms, especially Charley. He said, however, that the vast majority of them will be returning to campus in the spring.

On the bright side, the Asbury Seminary building itself did not sustain any major damage. The main problems involved downed trees and a leaky roof. As he has talked with students, Dr. Harper says many – if not most – are involved in storm relief at their local churches.

Asbury student Benton Manguiera, pastor of Friendship UMC in Punta Gorda, Fla., says his church offers a recovery group for discussion about the emotional toll of the storms.

"We have been providing a hurricane support group for the church and community," Manguiera says. "Also, we've noticed our worship numbers are up due to our providing relief during the hurricane. People are looking for something – comfort in times in trial."

Hopefully, the end of this year's hurricane season – officially Nov. 30 – will help with that too.

To read the full story, visit our website at www.asburyseminary.edu.

ASBURY SEMINARY STUDENT AND FAMILY REMEMBERED AFTER HURRICANE TRAGEDY

By Jenna De Marco

In 1992 Sherri Bomback, her husband Kevin and their family lived through the wrath of one of the most famous storms in recent history – Hurricane Andrew, which battered South Florida. Their Miami home was badly damaged and they had it rebuilt. They sold it soon after and moved to the Florida Panhandle to be away from the vulnerability of Miami, according to Asbury staff member Debi Andrews, who knew Sherri well.

Sadly the family did not survive their escape from another of Mother Nature's blows – Hurricane Ivan, a category 3 storm which hit the Panhandle last month. Sherri was an Asbury Seminary Orlando campus student, working on an M. Div.

According to news reports, on Sept. 14 the family boarded their small airplane – a Cessna 336 – in Alabama, took off and were never seen alive again. The bodies of Sherri, Kevin, and their two children, Alicia, 17, and Brent, 12, were recovered days later in a wooded area near Magee, Miss.

Dr. Steve Harper, vice president the Florida Campus, noted with particular sadness the loss of Sherri and her family in the accident. "We will be having a chapel service for Sherri," Dr. Harper said. "The community will gather to particularly remember Sherri and her family."

Sherri's pastor, Perry Dalton of Springfield UMC in Panama City, Fla., also knew Sherri and her family well. She attended Dalton's church — Springfield UMC in Panama City. Dalton's church conducted a memorial service for Sherri Oct. 16th.

"There was a great deal of sadness in the beginning and since then that sadness has turned into joy since her whole family was Christian," Dalton says. "As Christians, they have eternal life and we celebrate them moving on, though we will miss them."

To read more about Sherri and her ministries, please visit our website at www.asburyseminary.edu.

ASBURY SEMINARY RAISES 3.3 MILLION FROM CHALLENGE GIFT

Asbury Theological Seminary met and exceeded the \$1.5 million challenge gift issued by raising \$1.8 million in donations. The challenge began in November 2003 when the school announced a \$1 million matching gift from an anonymous donor. The donor agreed to match, dollar for dollar up to \$1 million, what was raised between Dec. 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004, for the Seminary's unrestricted funds. The challenge was increased to 1.5 when another donor stepped up to the challenge with a \$500,000 challenge. The challenge was aimed at faculty, administration, staff, students, alumni, friends and current and former board of trustees members of the Seminary community.

The challenge is the largest match gift Asbury Seminary has received in its lifetime. In addition to the challenge gift, Asbury experienced a record year in annual giving with more than \$9.9 million giving total from all donation sources.

ASBURY SEMINARY LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN 2004 LAUSSANE CONFERENCE

Asbury Theological Seminary recently sent six leaders from its community to participate in The 2004 Forum for World Christianity. The Forum, hosted by the International Lausanne Committee, brought 1,800 leaders from 165 countries together in Thailand as part of an international effort to develop solutions to many of the complex issues of the 21st century.

The International Lausanne Committee is a partnership of Christian mission organizations, parachurch organizations and denominational bodies and was founded in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974.

The Asbury Seminary delegation included professors and administrators who were actively involved in the conference which concluded October 8. Asbury delegation members included Dr. Steve Moore, senior vice president; Dr. Darrell Whiteman, dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism; Prof. Ron Crandall, associate dean of the E.S.J. School; Dr. Jim Thobaben, professor of church in society; Dr. Eunice Irwin, associate professor of

mission and contextual theology; and Dr. Terry Muck, professor of missions and world religions.

The Lausanne gathering sought to serve the work of Christianity around the world by conducting research, developing strategies of response, and promoting partnership among Christians in responding to the needs of the world today. It was the largest ecumenical effort in coordinating the work of Christians in the world.

ASBURY SEMINARY LEGEND DIES

John T. Seamands, professor emeritus of Christian mission at Asbury Seminary, died August 29, 2004, from complications of Parkinson's disease.

"Dr. Seamands was a valuable part of our community," explains Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway, president of Asbury Seminary. "His legacy is long-standing and continues impact our community in numerous ways."

J.T. was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 15, 1916, the son of the late Earl Arnett and Yvonne Shields Seamands. He grew up in India as the son of missionary parents, and graduated from Kodaikanal High School in South India. He was a graduate of Asbury College (BA 1938), Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1940), the University of Kentucky (MA 1946), and Serampore University, India (Th.D. 1971). Asbury Seminary awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1954.

For more than 20 years, J.T. contributed to the life of the Seminary as a professor in the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism. During that time he also served as founding director of the School. He was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement and as long as he was able, gave his time to teaching and preaching assignments in more than 40 countries around the world.

The family requests memorial gifts be made to Asbury Theological Seminary.

For more Asbury Seminary news, visit our website at www.asburyseminary.edu

The Inauguration of *Jeffrey E. Greenway*

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

~ November 9-11, 2004 ~
Wilmore, Kentucky/Orlando, Florida

Tuesday, November 9, 2004:

11:00 a.m.
Inauguration Week Chapel
Dr. David E. Streets, Estes Chapel

12:00 p.m.
Community-wide Lunch, Broadhurst Gymnasium

Wednesday, November 10, 2004:

11:00 a.m.
Inauguration Week Chapel & Communion Service,
Rev. Harold Greenway, Estes Chapel

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Presidential Open House, McKenna Chapel

Thursday, November 11, 2004:

all day
Faculty and Student Teaching
for Kentucky and Florida Campuses

11:00 a.m.
Inauguration Week Chapel,
Student Commissioning Chapel,
Bishop George W. Bashore, Estes Chapel

7:00 p.m.
Installation Service of Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway
as Asbury Seminary's Sixth President

8:30 p.m.
Inauguration Reception, B.L. Fisher Library

~ November 16, 2004 ~
Orlando, Florida

Tuesday, November 16, 2004:

12:00 p.m.
Seminary Community Gathering

1:00 p.m.
Inaugural Celebration Chapel with
Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway,
Sixth President of Asbury Theological Seminary

2:00 p.m.
Reception

THE ASBURY VOLUME 114 NUMBER 2
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*In
Response
to Grace*

The Inauguration of
Jeffrey E. Greenway
SIXTH PRESIDENT OF
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
November 11, 2004

Most people have a signature at the bottom of their emails. It gives a person the opportunity to say something about themselves, the world around them or life in general. At the bottom of Asbury Theological Seminary's new president's emails, he writes the following:

*Thinking theologically...Preaching evangelically...
Acting prophetically...Living in response to grace...*

These words succinctly summarize life at Asbury Seminary and the life of Asbury Seminary's sixth president, Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway. For Jeff, as he chooses to be called, the life of a seminary president embodies thinking, preaching, acting and, most importantly, living.

It's these traits that led Jeff to answer the call of president. Leaving his position as a district superintendent in the United Methodist Church wasn't going to be easy. But he knew his call. And he has responded. With a pastor's heart and an administrator's mind, Jeff Greenway continues Asbury's 81-year tradition of training Christian leaders for service worldwide.

On November 11, 2004, Asbury Seminary will proudly install this man who is simply choosing to live by grace.

